

Senate Resolution 1321

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Free Clinic Network and its member clinics; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Free Clinic Network connects over 100 nonprofit charitable
4 medical and dental clinics across Georgia serving the over 1.7 million uninsured Georgians;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, charitable clinics are the unseen fabric of the health care safety net in
7 communities, especially in rural areas, serving those with chronic and life-threatening
8 illnesses such as cancer, hypertension, and diabetes; and

9 WHEREAS, charitable clinics provide \$200 to \$400 million of care while only reaching 10
10 percent of the uninsured population according to the state auditor; and

11 WHEREAS, many uninsured individuals are limited to accessing health care through local
12 hospital emergency rooms; charitable clinics provide a tremendous saving to taxpayers and
13 hospitals and also provide a primary care base where patients can return for routine care; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia's charitable clinics delivered health care services to approximately
15 200,000 low-income, uninsured Georgians in 2009 with a volunteer workforce of health care
16 providers and community supporters; and

17 WHEREAS, charitable clinics are experiencing increasing demands of 25 to 50 percent over
18 2009, and despite the growth of patients served, clinics are forced to turn away an estimated
19 50,000 Georgians due to lack of capacity; and

20 WHEREAS, the majority of charitable clinics do not accept government funds, and are
21 funded by individuals, churches, civic groups, and foundations; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Free Clinic Network and the National Association of Free Clinics
23 will conduct a one-day Communities Are Responding Everyday (C.A.R.E.) clinic in Georgia
24 on March 27, 2010 at the Georgia International Convention Center; and

25 WHEREAS, 1,800 patients are expected to be served by 1,000 volunteers at the Georgia
26 C.A.R.E. clinic.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 heartily commend the Georgia Free Clinic Network and its member clinics for their
29 unselfish, dedicated, and loving service to the state and its citizens.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Free Clinic Network.